

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are twenty (20) sheets of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Please substitute these corrected drawings for the corresponding twenty (20) sheets of drawings on file in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

The thoroughness of the examiner regarding the informalities in the drawings is acknowledged with appreciation, including the inconsistency noted regarding the number 23' in Figures 13 and 14 and on page 9 (actually 8) of the specification. The drawings have been corrected as noted in the Action, and replacement sheets are submitted concurrently.

The abstract has been amended and is believed to be in correct form. Minor changes have been made, and the applicant stands will to make any further changes that may be required.

The allowable subject matter of claims 13-14 and 38 has been noted and these claims have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 42-44. In addition, the original independent claim, claim 1, has been amended to emphasize more clearly the aspects of the basic combination defined in this claim, in terms relating to allowable claims 13 and 14 but somewhat more broadly, to distinguish this claim more clearly from the references applied. Claim 1 now not only recites actuators drivingly connected to the traction arms, but also defines the radially movable traction arms as having free outer end portions. These features clearly and patentably distinguish claim 1, and all of its remaining dependent claims, over the prior art. The primary reference to Rona discloses a traction device of the same general type as the Applicant's, having radially extendable and retractably traction arms supported on a body attached to one side of a wheel, but differs significantly in the manner of actuating the arms and in the way that Rona positions the outer end portions to become traction elements over the tread portion of the wheel.

Specifically, Rona provides normally straight arms (See Figs. 8 and 9) with complex constructions using both inner springs 40 and middle and outer connecting springs, 22 and 24, extending between the outer end portions, to cause the grip assemblies to bend to overlie the tread

area of the tire. Applicant's traction arms, in contrast, do not require connecting springs, relying entirely on the shape of the arms, when free and unstressed, to position the arms over the tread area. This is a much simpler and, it is believed, trouble free configuration.

Further, and very significantly, the present invention has a plurality of separate power actuators for operating the traction arms, in contrast to the very complex single actuator 18, 30 of the Rona device. This device, to the extent understood, drivingly connects the motor to the traction arms through what is believed to be a planetary gearing system, shown most clearly in Figs. 5 and 6, of a high level of complexity and doubtful practicality.

The distinguishing features of the present invention are incorporated in claim 1, as amended, by the recital of "said traction arms having free outer end portions", and "a plurality of separate power actuators" for the traction arms. Claim 2 has been amended to emphasize the holding of the traction elements in place by the resilience of the bends in the plastic arms, and dependent claims 13 and 14 remain as defining the dual connection of each actuator and the T-drive connections. These are similar in scope to new claims 41 and 42, but not the same.

All of the remaining original claims are dependent upon claim 1 and add important secondary aspects of the invention to that claim, Claims 31-35, formerly withdrawn from consideration, remain in the application because claim 1 is generic with respect to the embodiments in Figs. 28-34 and these claims should be entitled to reconsideration for this reason.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

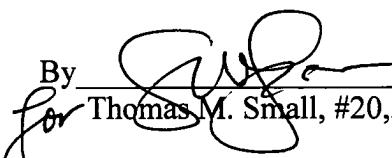
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Thomas M. Small (Reg. No. 20,379) at (310) 592-

5761, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$225.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #47,604  
for Thomas M. Small, #20,379

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(714) 708-8555

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Attachment(s)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 21, 2005  
(Date of Deposit)

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Joni M. Hill  
(Signature)  
December 21, 2005  
(Date of Signature)